(c) the total funds allotted by Government for the purpose during the current financial year and Ninth Plan; and

(d) the effective measures being taken or proposed to be taken by Government for implementation of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no exclusive scheme for unemployed youth. However, under the 'Special Package for Coffee Development in North-East Region' during the IXth Five Year Plan, a total area of 3650 ha. is proposed to be covered in Assam. The areas brought under Coffee are mainly located in Karbianglong, North Cachar Hills and Golpara Districts of Assam State.

(c) For implementation of the above package in the entire North-Eastern Region, an amount of Rs. 11.07 crores and Rs. 2.20 crores has been allocated for IXth Five Year Plan and current financial year (1998-99) respectively.

(d) For monitoring extension and coffee developmental activities in the North-Eastern Region, the Board has its extension network in this region. Further, a post of Joint Director (Extension) with Headquarters at Shilong and Senior Liason Officer at Tura have also been created during 1997 for overseeing implementation of the Special Area Programme. The programme is being implemented in close coordination with State Govt. agencies like the Forest Development Corporation, Soil Conservation Department and the North East Council.

Secretary Level talks between India and Nepal

2350. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Secretary level talks between India and Nepal on checking the unauthorised trade across the open border were held in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details and outcome thereof;

(c) whether Indo-Nepalese transit treaty has been further renewed; and

(d) if so, the details of joint efforts made by India and Nepal to check illegal trade between both the countries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (d) The Commerce Secretary level talks between India and Nepal were held in New Delhi on 17—20 November, 1998. The focus of discussions was on renewal of Indo-Nepal Treaty of Transit which was to expire on 5th January 1998. It has been agreed to renew the existing Treaty of Transit with mutually agreed modifications. Pending the formal renewal of Treaty of Transit, it has been agreed that the validity of the existing Treaty shall be extended by one month i.e. upto 5th January, 1999 or till the date of its formal renewal whichever is earlier.

The need for checking the unauthorised trade across the Indo-Nepal border was also underlined during the discussions and the two Governments agreed to cooperate with each other to control it.

Export Warehousing Scheme

2351. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently cleared the proposal for export warehousing scheme;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme and likely impact thereof;

(c) the details of other fresh initiatives taken under consideration to boost up exports; and

(d) the details of system reforms effected/under consideration for export promotion during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) Export warehousing scheme was notified under Export & Import Policy issued on 13.4.98. The scheme allows the